8C

EXTRACTS

FROM

THE MINUTES

OF THE

Yearly Meeting of Women Friends,

HELD IN

PHILADELPHIA,

By Adjournments from the Twelfth Day of Fifth Month, to the Sixteenth of the same, inclusive.

1879.

PHILADELPHIA:
PUBLISHED FOR THE YEARLY MEETING.
1879.

8C

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015 with funding from
This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

https://archive.org/details/extractsfromminu00year_0

EXTRACTS.

At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held in Phil adelphia, by adjournments from the Twelfth of Fifth Month to the Sixteenth of the same inclusive, 1879.

At the opening of the Meeting a very feeling prayer was offered for the preservation of the church throughout the several sittings, in order that we might move in the Divine harmony. Many precious testimonies were born, giving evidence that they who seek for best help, feeling all their strength to be from the one pure source, come to realize that our God is strength in weakness and a present help in every time of need.

All the Reports from the constituent Quarterly Meetings were read, and the Representatives therein named being called, were all present except nine; for the absence of seven of whom satisfactory reasons were assigned.

The following Minutes for Friends in attendance with us were read:

One for Rebecca Price, a Minister from Baltimore Monthly Meeting, dated 6th of Third month, 1879, and endorsed by Baltimore Quarterly Meeting.

One for Rebecca M. Thomas, an Elder and companion from Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting, dated 7th of Fifth Month, 1879.

One for Ann Packer, a Minister from Green Plain Monthly Meeting, Clark County, Ohio, dated Fourth month, 16th, 1879.

One for Elizabeth S. Burnet, an Elder and companion, from Miami Monthly Meeting, Ohio, dated 23d of Fourth month, 1879.

The company of all these Friends, together with those without minutes, was felt to be very precious.

Epistles from our Sisters of Baltimore and New York Yearly Meetings, were read to our comfort and strength.

The Representatives were desired to confer together at the rise of this meeting, in order to bring forward the names of two suitable Friends to serve as Clerk and Assistant Clerk the present year.

Afternoon.

Catherine P. Foulke, on behalf of the Representatives, reported that they met and were united in proposing the name of Martha Mellor for Clerk, and Jane D. Satterthwait for Assistant Clerk. The meeting uniting therewith, they are appointed to that service the present year.

To examine and settle the Treasurer's account the following Friend's were appointed: Margaret Bancroft, Elizabeth R. Turnpenny, and Edith W. Atlee.

A concern for our right appreciation of the principles which this Society has ever promulgated, and for a willingness to carry them out in our walk through life, wherever we may be, was feelingly opened. Many are so circumstanced that they are isolated from the influences of the society. The feeling prayer for these was that they might stand firm, showing the immutability of these blessed principles.

Epistles from our Sisters of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Genesee were read, giving evidence of the same pure spirit, even as "Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy water spouts."

Third Day—Morning.

Our friend Martha E. Travilla laid before the meeting a concern to visit men's meeting. Much unity was expressed, and she set at liberty. Martha Dodgson being named to accompany her.

Prayer was vocally offered for our help and strength to perform the business that may come before us, to the honor and praise of our great Creator.

A report from the joint committee on the subject of education was read, and satisfaction expressed therewith. The committee were encouraged to persevere, in the belief that their labor has been of great benefit in many places, and that the conferences held, have had a cementing and gathering influence.

The very important concern of the establishment of a Friends' Boarding School under the care of the Yearly Meeting was introduced and considered.

To unite with men friends in considering the two propositions coming up from Salem Quarterly Meeting, in regard to alterations in the discipline, a committee was appointed.

Third Day—Afternoon.

Minutes for men Friends in attendance were read.

One for Isaac Hicks, a Minister from Westbury Monthly Meeting, Long Island, dated 16th of the Fourth month, 1879.

One for James Armitage, an Elder from Yonge Street Monthly Meeting, Canada, dated 17th of Fourth month, 1879.

Many excellent testimonies were born, bearing witness to the strength to be derived from faithfulness in the attendance of all the religious and disciplinary meetings of our society. The overcoming of many difficulties through Divine aid, will tend to faithfulness in other duties. The young were exhorted to yield to the monitions of duty when gathered in their small meetings. Mothers were entreated to use their little children to stillness, and then through prayerful waiting, they will be enabled to give food to their seeking minds.

Fourth Day—Morning.

The review of the state of our Society was continued as far as the Seventh Query. We were called upon to examine ourselves individually, to know how far we are

faithful in carrying out the testimonies embraced in these queries, that there may be consistency in our walk.

Especially have we been encouraged to refrain from self-indulgence, in order that we should have more to dispense to those who need.

Fourth Day—Afternoon.

The remaining Queries and their answers were read.

The Committee to examine the Treasurer's account, report it correct and present the following statement.

DR.

3d mo., 15th, 1878.	Balance due the Yearly Meeting,	$305.13
	Interest allowed, - -	42
5th mo., 12th, 1879.	Quotas from the Quarterly and Half Yearly Meetings. -	115.97
	Total,	$421.52

CR.

6th mo. 24th, 1878.	By Cash paid Friends Book Association for Printing the Extracts, Postage and Expressage.	$ 50.00
5th mo. 12th, 1879.	Balance due the Yearly Meeting,	$371.52

The Address from the Yearly Meeting of Illinois was read, and after considerable expression of feeling on the subject, it was referred for further consideration another year—this meeting uniting with the judgment of men's meeting, that it should be printed in their extracts.

Fifth Day—Afternoon.

The subject of establishing a Boarding School, under the care of the Yearly Meeting as presented at a previous sitting, was again introduced, and the feeling of unity was so general that it was the judgment of this meeting to lay it before men's meeting.

The Joint Committee of men and women Friends, to which was referred the subject brought up from Salem Quarterly Meeting, reported that way did not open to recommend to the Yearly Meeting the adoption of the proposed change, omiting the words, "immoral conduct nor" in the clause in regard to members marrying without the approbation of the Monthly Meeting, in the fifteenth line on page fifty-four; and that they were generally united in recommending the adoption of the following proposed change, making it a violation of our Discipline for our members to sign Tavern or Inn Licenses where liquor is sold. With this judgment the meeting united.

To bring forward for the consideration of a future sitting, the names of suitable Friends to take charge of the Yearly Meeting fund, a Committee was appointed.

Men's Meeting informed that they had adopted the report from the Education Committee, and were united in continuing said Committee another year. With this judgment this meeting united.

An Epistle for our sisters of Illinois was read, and with some slight alteration approved.

Sixth Day—Morning.

Epistles for our sisters of Indiana and Genesee were read and approved.

We had an acceptable visit in Gospel love from our friends William Brosius and Enoch S. Hannum, encouraging exercised minds to persevere, seeking after stillness, looking only unto Him who will be found to be strength in weakness and a present helper in every time of need.

Men's Meeting informed they had had the subject of a Boarding School under the care of this Yearly Meeting, under consideration, as introduced by women's Meeting, and were united in having the subject embodied in a clause to be printed in the extracts. This meeting united with the judgment of men's Meeting; and it was left with the Representatives to introduce the concern in their respective Quarterly Meetings; and request the appointment of a Committee composed of four Friends from each Monthly Meeting, to confer together, in order to ascertain the views of Friends upon the subject, and report to our *next Yearly Meeting.*

A portion of the minutes of the Representative Committee, together with the memorial to the Legislatures of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, concerning the great evil caused by intoxicating liquors, was read.

Sixth Day—Afternoon.

The Committee appointed to nominate Friends to have charge of the Yearly Meeting fund, (having been

requested for the greater convenience of those on this appointment, to name only persons residing in this city,) propose the following Friends: Elizabeth R. Turnpenny, Sarah C. Webster, Emily B. Smyth, Esther Bancroft, Sarah P. Chapman and Louisa J. Roberts. They also unite in judgment that it will not be necessary to raise the quotas the present year.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

PRISCILLA T. SPEAKMAN.

The Meeting united in judgment with the report of said Committee.

Epistles for our sisters of Ohio, New York and Baltimore, were read.

A portion of the report of the labors of the Indian Committee was read and that Committee was encouraged to persevere in the labor. This Meeting united with the judgment of men's Meeting that the Committee be continued. The report will be found in their extracts.

An interesting and touching memorial to the memory of our beloved friend, George Truman, a minister, was read, and many Friends responded, bearing additional testimony to his loving spirit and pure life.

Near the opening of the meeting, we were solemnly reminded that many who have long been honored as standard bearers, and as bright examples of pure Christian life, were with us no more. The same trust in the Divine Guidance and the same dedication to the cause

of the advancement of righteousness which was their strength must be ours—qualifying us to do the work of our day. "The pathway of the just is as a shining light," and the departed are yet our counsellors and our examples; we being invited to follow them as they followed Christ.

A deep and weighty concern for the education of youth in the principles of piety and virtue, was introduced by the reading of the report of the Committee on Education. Not alone should the culture of the intellect engage our thoughtful attention and call forth our earnest efforts, but the training of the moral nature in accordance with the Christian standard of purity, truth, charity and temperance, must ever be the aim of the faithful teacher. A preparation for a useful and righteous life, a training to practical ends and the elevation of a pure and noble standard before the young, was shown to be the true education.

Friends were cautioned in establishing their schools to consider how they may best improve on the system now in use, and how they may avoid perpetuating error. The physical, mental and moral powers should be cultivated harmoniously, that the young may truly be fitted for life's duties.

The careful and candid examination of the Scriptures, and the reading of the religious experiences of devoted servants of the Highest of every age and generation, was enjoined upon the youth. In such reading they may find much to strengthen them in their own spiritual life and exercise.

It was shown that parents and guardians should be

watchful over the young, to guard against the formation of a taste for indulgences and diversions of a dangerous character in early days. The Divine principle of Wisdom and Light, if its teachings and leadings are followed prayerfully will show us what is pure, innocent and refining.

The consideration of our testimony in regard to intemperance was the occasion of deep exercise. Tender sympathy was expressed for mothers and wives whose dear sons and husbands have been led astray by the temptation of intoxicating liquors. The use of tobacco with its hurtfull influences, and the wrong of using the soil for the production of so injurious a plant, was the occasion of concern, and women were reminded that they might exert much salutary influence if they will only be faithful to their own highest sense of right.

The responsibility of young mothers, called forth searching testimonies. They were earnestly exhorted to live wisely and prayerfully, to govern their own spirits, and think less of their own gratifications, than of the holy duties of wife and mother.

In considering the important points of the Fifth Query, and the full statements of the various answers from constituent meetings in regard to the loving care extended to members requiring aid, we were called upon to imitate the example of the patriarch Job, who could declare, "The cause that I knew not I searched out."

A caution lest we are induced to withhold assistance from those who in mercantile business, are asking only for legitimate gains, and to give our countenance to

those who seek by excessive competition to undersell and thus undermine others, was extended. It was felt that the principles of justice and of moderation should influence every action, leaving no place for mere selfishness.

Quiet and sympathetic visits to the homes of such as are believed to be in distress, and the helping hand secretly extended, were forcibly recommended; and the true standard and test of discipleship to Christ was pointed out: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another."

Very earnest exhortations to faithfulness in regard to our testimonies on the subject of oaths, against war, and against all oppression of the weak, were given forth. We were asked to consider if we have no work of Christian benevolence to do, in reference to the recent flight of colored people from some portions of our Southern land.

A deep conscientious care that all the influences thrown around the pathway of little children should be such as to foster that which is pure and Heavenly in the unfolding mind, and such as tend to build up a love for all that promotes refinement and virtue, found appropriate expression. Even the toys given into the hands of young children may be the means of suggesting the cruel destructiveness of war, and mothers were entreated to be wise guardians over their precious little ones in the very opening hours of childhood's first impressions. Gentleness and mercy to all living things, as well as love to all the family of man, can be fostered in the heart of the little child; while influences adverse to the spirit of

love and goodness are only too liable to reach even the cradle of infancy.

An address from Illinois Friends, asking our co-operation in a plan of united counsels, and united work for the cause of Christian philanthropy and of moral reform, was the occasion for the expression of deep responsive feeling, and of a desire to be faithful and vigilant in every good word and work. At the same time we were cautioned that the root and ground of all right engagements is to be found in individual faithfulness to every monition of conscience—to every Divine requirement.

Respecting a free Gospel ministry, it was believed there is an earnest desire in the world to hear the spoken word—that there are sheep of other folds looking to us, and that there is a growing acknowledgement of the right of women to preach the gospel.

On the subject of the training and culture of youth, a deep religious concern was expressed by many Friends, and many believed the founding of a Boarding School, to be conducted strictly in accordance with Friends' principles, and to be superintended by a Committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting, would be a great blessing to the Society. The subject claimed much attention and the reverent hope was felt that all movement in this direction should be in accordance with the pointings of Divine Wisdom.

The importance of the Society of Friends at this time maintaining faithfully its stand as the advocate of the cause of the wronged and oppressed of every name and race, and as the promoter of every work of love and of every effort to bless mankind, was feeling and earnestly presented.

Some of those dear and honored Friends who have so long stood before us as witnesses for the Divine Truth, have very solemnly called the middle aged and the youth to yield obedience to the intimations of duty of which they are conscious.

The position of the women of this Society, now admitted to a full participance in the active engagements of the church, should be appreciated by us, and we should prove by our efficient service to the cause of justice, mercy and truth, that we are indeed in our right place,—co-workers with our brethren and the earnest promoters of reasonable and truly religious progress.

We acknowledge the overshadowing wing of Divine love to have covered the several gatherings of this our annual assembly, and under the same influence, with a feeling of deep solemnity and a most impressive silence, the meeting concluded, to meet again at the usual time next year if consistent with the Divine will.

From Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held by Adjournments from the 28th of Tenth month, 1878, to the 31st of the same, inclusive.

To Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends:

Dear Sisters:—It is with feelings born of love, that we acknowledge your welcome Epistle; freighted as it was with strengthening words of encouragement, and we rejoice that the Good Father put into your hearts to remind us that it is as much our duty to assist those who are desirous of helping themselves, as it is to relieve abject poverty; and which can be done more effectually by the practice of self-denial in regard to luxuries.

We feel the desire that you may, in a measure, share of the rich feast that the ever-loving Father has permitted us to partake of at this time. Our Yearly Meeting is not as large as usual; our small army of standard bearers has been thinned, and we sadly miss the faces and voices of the absent ones, but the same Almighty Power that was *their* guide and strength, is still able to be strength for *all*; yea, and *will* yet bring forth standard bearers from amongst us, to uphold our principles and testimonies.

The counsel was given, not to place our reliance on only a moral life; for a life of morality, however much to be valued, is but as a stepping stone to the higher and spiritual life; where the Divinity within us, is acknowledged to be our guiding star; and which, if the eye be kept single, will lead us on to a *closer* walk with God.

The cause of temperance has earnestly engaged our attention, and we have been reminded of the Apostle's

injunction, to be "temperate in *all* things." This is the very foundation stone of true temperance; the faithful observance of which would do more to overcome the monster evil of our land, than all the combined efforts against intoxicating drink, alone.

A proposition was received from Illinois Yearly Meeting, that all our Yearly Meetings should meet in conference, at stated periods, for the purpose of considering' the subjects of Peace, Temperance, just treatment of the Indians, and other matters of deep import, which proposition, after having been weighed at this time, was left for the consideration of Friends another year.

Mothers were counselled in regard to the early education of their children, and were truthfully and forcibly reminded that the period of influence commenced with their *ante-natal* existence. This is a subject of vital importance, and should claim the serious and prayerful consideration of every mother.

The young were invited to press on "to the mark for the prize of the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus,' being willing to come forward, and labor in His vineyard; reminded also that "Without me, ye can do nothing." And, while it is true that "They also serve, who only stand and wait," when *such* is the *appointed* service, let us remember who it was that said "My Father worketh hitherto, and *I* work;" and may we be ready to be earnest followers in the path in which He has led the way.

With the salutation of love, we are your sisters.

Signed by direction of the meeting,

MARY C. CUTLER, *Clerk.*

FROM NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS, HELD BY ADJOURNMENTS, FROM THE 27TH OF FIFTH MONTH TO THE 30TH OF THE SAME, INCLUSIVE, 1878.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Women Friends to be held in Philadelphia.

DEAR SISTERS:—With reverent and grateful hearts which have been cheered and strengthened by renewed evidences of the Heavenly Father's tender watchfulness and care over our assembled flock, we return your sisterly greeting, with answering words of love and encouragement. While, in our heavenward journey, we are apt to grow weary and to faint by the way; or to turn aside, seeking paths less straight and difficult; or in our eagerness for the goal, to leave behind our unerring Guide, and thus fall into snares and pitfalls; yet surely we have no cause for lasting discouragement, knowing that we have a Master "who is touched with a feeling of our infirmities," and who will restore us *to*, and preserve us *in* the true path, if we seek it with "penitence and tears."

It is all-important in this age of civil commotion and religious questioning, that we, as a Society, should rally to the ancient standard of our faith, and raise it aloft as an "ensign to the nations:" that knowing the ground whereon we stand to be firm, and being "shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace," and girded with the "Sword of the Spirit," we may be ready to follow where our Leader calls. As we abide under the shadow of the Almighty, and trust in it, we shall find Him to be a rock of defence, and a shelter from the storm.

Thus we shall be preserved not only from the disturbances and allurements of the world without, but from those which beset our home-life, as well as from the secret and powerful temptations which come to our own souls. We shall be enabled to rule our own spirits and to be in our social and domestic circles, sweet and benignant examples of the hallowing and refining influences of our Father's love. We shall be able to go in and out before our children with shining faces, like that of Moses, after he had talked with God in the Mount—and the light of this Divine communion will radiate from us, and draw others unto it, by its centralizing power.

Then we shall not be found practicing or encouraging lightness, frivolity, or extravagance, but will be able to assert our true position, as dignified and noble help. meets to our fathers, sons, and brothers, We shall find more satisfaction in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, encouraging the fallen, and relieving the oppressed, than in adorning our perishable bodies, or in ministering to their selfish gratification; and we shall beware how we foster excesses in eating and drinking lest we thereby cause others to offend, and even imperil their better life. Then we shall feel it to be a holy privilege, rather than a burden, to attend our religious meetings, and to encourage our families to assemble with us; and, when there, we shall, by our solid and reverent demeanor, attest the purpose of our gathering; and the Master of Assemblies will cover our spirits with that sweet peace which is ever the reward of obedience in His service.

The subject of education, and the right training of

the young, has also claimed our serious consideration. How to keep them near us, and to preserve them from the evil which abounds in the world; and present to them, whether in the form of reading, amusement, or companionship, only that which is pure and wholesome, are questions which can only be prayerfully put and answered, in each individual heart. But, if we, ourselves, keep near the Divine Fountain of light and life, and, in faith, "in the morning, sow the seed," and "in the evening also, withhold not our hand," we shall, having done all, be willing to stand and wait the Lord's time for its ripening and perfecting. The Good Shepherd alone, can keep the wolf from the fold, and ensure the safety of our tender lambs, by bearing them in His bosom.

We, too, are called to mourn over many places made vacant by the hand of Death, the young, as well as the old having been summoned away. We miss the gentle presence, loving testimony and silent sympathy of those who, we believe, are "not lost, but gone before" to their eternal rest. But our faith teaches us not to mourn "as those without hope"—but rather to press forward toward the same end they have attained; believing that "in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Our meeting has been unusually large, and several Friends from other Yearly Meetings have been acceptably with us, strengthening us by their company and labors, and encouraging us to believe that we are still a people highly favored of the Lord, since He hath sent to us these bearers of glad tidings, to confirm us in the faith

Our deliberations have been conducted in unity and condescension, and, though our meetings have sometimes been long, they have been pervaded with a solemnity and quiet, which have given evidence of a deep and vital interest in the subjects before us. Some of our young Friends are helping to bear the burdens of Society; and by their quick and active sympathy have strengthened the hands of their elder sisters, who look to them to fill up the ranks fast becoming thinned by death.

The reports from the various First-Day Schools under our care, are so encouraging, as to incite us to pursue a work in which so wide a field of usefulness presents itself. Too much right labor cannot be bestowed upon the religious training of our children; but it is not by *much*, or by *abstruse* teaching, that the most desirable result can be obtained. The aim of all instruction should be to lead the youthful mind to the Great Teacher, who is ever "His own interpreter."

The condition of the Indians under our supervision, shows so marked an improvement during the past nine years, as to warrant further effort in their behalf. They are in danger of being driven from their homes by adverse legislation, and there is, therefore, a special call to all who feel an interest in their welfare, to aid in averting so great a wrong.

Believing that this correspondence, like the sap which gives life to the tree, will refresh and enliven even the remotest branches of our vineyard, if allowed to circulate freely, we bid you an affectionate farewell, and remain your sisters.

Signed by direction of the Meeting.

MARY JANE FIELD, *Clerk.*

FROM INDIANA YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS AT WAYNESVILLE, OHIO, HELD BY ADJOURNMENTS FROM THE 30TH OF 9TH MO. TO THE 3RD OF 10TH MO., 1878.

To Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends:

DEAR SISTERS:—Under the cementing influence of that love, which unites us as one band of sisters, we again address you. Yet it is with an humbling sense of our weakness and inability to furnish any food which will nourish the hungry soul, without His Divine Guidance.

As His dependant children, our hearts overflow with gratitude, and love for His never ceasing mercy, and His manifold blessings. Gently and tenderly He woes and entreats us to follow more closely the beautiful path, which He in His loving, and infinite Wisdom is daily pointing out to us.

Clearly and distinctly will we see our way if we but yield obedience to His teachings, whose ways are ways of pleasantness, and whose paths are peace.

Oh! that the young in an *especial* manner could only feel that He is not a hard *Master*, but a loving *Father*, who requires no sacrifice of them except for their own peace; that He lays no burden upon them which He does not give them strength to bear. And with all His requirements, His grace is sufficient for them, if they only allow their *own* wills to be merged into the Divine Will.

All their sorrows are but as furnaces, in which the pure gold is separated from the dross, fitting them for a sweeter and purer life where *their* peace will flow as a river.

Dear young sisters, come very early under the loving influence of His power in the heart, that Power, which teaches as never man taught, and will enter, and so fill the inner sanctuary, as to leave no room for fears or doubts of His eternal goodness.

The state of society as presented by the answers to the Queries, called forth much excellent counsel from deeply exercised minds, entreating all to more individual faithfulness, and a closer adherence to our testimonies in their simplicity.

Our several sittings have been covered with the canopy of love, and we have taken sweet counsel together.

We have the company of several Friends from other Yearly Meetings whose labors, both silent and vocal, have been strengthening and comforting.

Excellent epistles from the several Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, together with yours, have been received, and have given us renewed evidence that He will never forsake those who put their trust in Him. The report from the Indian Committee, encourages us to continue our labors as way opens, and trust that the crooked ways may become straight, and the rough places smooth. With earnest desire that we with you, may continue faithful laborers for the promotion of the Truth, we remain your sisters.

Signed by direction of the Meeting,

MARY W. COOK, *Clerk.*

FROM ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS, HELD BY ADJOURNMENTS FROM THE 16TH OF NINTH MONTH TO THE 19TH OF THE SAME, INCLUSIVE.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in Philadelphia.

DEAR SISTERS:—Under the influence of the reading of your kind epistle, we take up the pen of correspondence in reply, going with you (in the account you have afforded us) through *your* endeavors to attain to that peace for which we are also striving.

Your reference to deficiencies reminds us that we too, are not perfect—so much there is yet to do, ere we are enabled to stand in full light without weakness or blemish as a people. A beautiful truth uttered in one of our gatherings, and touching our minds with force, we pen to you as a part of the exercises of our meeting—that it is a great Christian attainment to render good for evil; that if we return injury for injury, how are we better than the one that injured us? Are we not *worse*, having seen the depth of the wrong, to do the same thing?

Our Committee on the Revision of Discipline submitted the result of their faithful labor to the general Yearly Meeting in joint session, which on considering section after section, through many hours of deep, and we trust prayerful thought, adopted it in full harmony. We find that we have advanced so far as to be able to incorporate unitedly in the new Book of Discipline, an emphatic discouragement to the habit of using *tobacco*, believing as we do, that besides its uncleanliness, it leads

to a love for strong drink. Many of our members are ready to adopt a clause requiring a total abstinence from the use of intoxicants; but, others are not ready, regarding alcohol safe in the Physician's hand, yet the statement of one of these is to the effect, that alcohol saves only one to every one hundred that it kills. Considering the distress and degradation that this one thing is bringing upon our land, it seems time that the Society of Friends should take a strong stand against this great. evil. It was further remarked in our meeting, that in view of what many of our members have done in this cause, we are now able to answer more fully and honestly than ever before the spirit of the Fourth Query.

The subject of living within the bounds of our circumstances, is also felt to be of peculiar significance now in these times of depression, and it was spoken of as a comfort, that it is true of our Society (as gathered from the answers to the queries) that these things have been regarded amongst us, notwithstanding the surrounding temptation for display.

The Indian question claimed very thoughtful consideration, with a feeling of discouragement in many ways, and yet our duty, concerning the Pawnees seems a plain one, so far as Government may permit. Their simple untutored pleadings with Congress to spare them from the threatened change in affairs, and to allow Friends to continue to look after their wellfare, is an appeal that must reach the heart, inciting the stronger hand to assist as far as possible the backward children of our common human race.

We have the acceptable company of but three strangers

with minutes, yet our meeting is as large as usual, with an increasing interest in our testimonies, and evidences of true work reach out in the fulness of love beyond the lines of sect. A member of the other branch of Friends, sitting with us through the exercises of the day, expressed under the baptisms of Divine worship a hope that she too may be even more zealous than ever before in the right training of her little children.

Vacant places in our Zion also, sadden our hearts, but the beauty of those earnest lives, now beyond the cares of Time, are encouragements indeed, yet we turn with a feeling of loss in our midst to one (for whom we have not yet prepared a memorial) who stood so prominent in our annual business assembly.

In Christian love we remain your sisters.

Signed by direction of the meeting.

CAROLINE LUKENS,

Clerk.

FROM OHIO YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS, HELD BY ADJOURNMENTS, FROM THE 26TH OF EIGHTH MONTH TO 29TH OF SAME INCLUSIVE, 1878.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends to be held in Philadelphia:

DEAR SISTERS:—As the sun of our universe sends forth his rays to illumine and fructify all nature, so we feel, does our Heavenly Father send forth rays of love, warming and verifying the hearts of his children, drawing them to Himself and cementing them together with a sense of His goodness.

Although miles intervene between us we trust that we are one in spirit, endeavoring to do our Creator's will as made known, desiring so to live, that individually all may hear the language, "Let her alone, she hath done what she could."

Your epistle, with others received at this time, has been read to our edification and instruction. We can truly appreciate the sense of comfort covering your assembly, from the feeling of harmony which prevailed. May it ever be thus with you. Our deliberations have been marked by the same characteristic, with few elements to ruffle the surface of the stream, and the depths remaining clear after agitation. We have had ministering Friends with us, whose loving words touched many hearts, and doubtless earnest aspirations have arisen to the All-Father, "Help me to live the life of the righteous."

Encouragement has been given to those who truly seek the ways of virtue, and paths of peace, and with especial depth, and power has the matter of dress, address and the importance of propriety and purity in language been stirred among us.

We feel that we are highly favored in the prevailing abstinence from alcoholic drinks, of which our reports give an assurance. Care in this particular having yielded so rich a harvest, let us be strengthened for faithful labor in the future. If truly faithful, we may hope that the use of the polluting tobacco, too, may become of the past, and our youth meet the besetments of life free from these physical disadvantages which may so hinder spiritual growth.

May He who cares for each of us help and strengthen all to be earnest in whatsoever work hand and heart find to do, and so guard us that all may be to His honor.

With salutations of tender love we remain your sisters.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting,

JANE EDGERTON, *Clerk.*

FROM GENESEE YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS, HELD AT YARMOUTH, ONTARIO, BY ADJOURNMENTS FROM THE 10TH OF 6TH MO., TO THE 13TH OF THE SAME, INCLUSIVE, 1878.

To Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends:

DEAR SISTERS:—We are once more permitted to assemble for the purpose of transacting the business of our Yearly Meeting, and being furnished with a renewed evidence of the regard of the Divine Master by the overshadowing of His presence, we feel an increase of love which extends to all His household, as children of the same Father, speaking and understanding one language. But we humbly feel our own insuffiency, knowing that we only multiply "words without wisdom" unless we come under that qualifying Power which giveth "understanding to the heart, and the answer of the tongue." And desires have been renewedly felt that we may henceforth be more willing to wait at wisdom's gate, patiently listening to know for ourselves what the requirements of the Spirit of Truth are, that we may yield to it a ready obedience. Even when our natural wills and inclinations are most in opposition thereto,

there is every encouragement to be faithful, for He who has written a Divine law in our hearts, and implanted desires within us for spiritual enjoyments, is abundantly able to satisfy and richly reward all those who are faithful.

We have no new thing to write to you, dear Sisters, save that which is the "same yesterday, to-day and forever," yet can never grow old or lose its freshness and its power to those who receive it with gladness of heart. Many and diversified are the allurements that call away from the fountain of Divine Life in every soul, and a watchful care is necessary for us to exercise, lest we allow the heart, like the Inn of old, to be so filled with strangers that there is no room for the Heavenly Guest. Let us remember that to the attentive mind there is made known the riches of His grace—that he is calling us to walk in the way that leads to life, and as our trust and confidence are placed in Him, He will bring us forth through all, to his praise and to our establishment on that foundation that can never be shaken.

A few Friends from a distance have been with us, whose sympathy and silent travail of spirit have been strengthening to us.

Although no ministering Friends from other Yearly Meetings are in attendance, our own have labored in the ability given, to uphold the testimonies of truth which we profess, and to awaken desires after the enjoyment of a Presence "which is life, and a loving kindness that is better than length of days."

In reviewing the state of Society as shown by the answers to our queries, we acknowledge many deficiencies, particularly in the attendance of our religious meetings,